Brunty, Joseph

From:

Martin, David M

Sent:

Thursday, February 14, 2002 9:09 PM

To:

Bullman, Jack; 'joanne.terek@msfc.nasa.gov'; 'managers'; Carruth, Ralph; Johnston, Danny

D; Kilpatrick, Bill

Cc:

Malone, Tina; Brunty, Joseph; Rowe, Sidney; Baird, Roger; Junen, Kendall

Subject:

RE: FW: Late Breaking possible SRB topic at FRR 2/14/02

I appreciate the commitment of support. Since I'm in Florida for the FRR, I've been tracking this problem first hand. Things are moving along quite well on several fronts. I'm confident we'll be able to identify root cause on this issue shortly. Once we do that, we'll move down the appropriate path to develop final flight rationale, or change out hardware as appropriate. Kendall Junen is also following this issue for my office. If things make a turn for the worse, we will come calling. Thanks again for the commitment of support!!!

David Martin
SRB Deputy Project Manager

----Original Message----

From: Bullman, Jack

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2002 2:57 PM

To: 'joanne.terek@msfc.nasa.gov'; managers; Carruth, Ralph; Johnston,

Danny D; Kilpatrick, Bill

Cc: Malone, Tina; Brunty, Joseph; Rowe, Sidney; Baird, Roger; Martin,

David M; Bullman, Jack

Subject: RE: FW: Late Breaking possible SRB topic at FRR 2/14/02

Bill, we consider this a serious issue and are working closely with the project. I am not confident that the plan of action so far identified by the project and the contract will provide an adequate rational for flight. There may be additional work required. As I say, we are working with the project.

----Original Message----

From: joanne.terek@msfc.nasa.gov [mailto:joanne.terek@msfc.nasa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2002 12:53 PM

To: managers; Melvin Carruth; Danny D Johnston Cc: Tina Malone; Dr Brunty; Sid Rowe; Roger Baird

Subject: Fwd: FW: Late Breaking possible SRB topic at FRR 2/14/02

Here is additional information on the SRB cables. I'll keep sending information as I receive it. If there comes a time where it is getting redundant let me know.

>From: "Daniels, Angela" <Angela.V.Daniels@msfc.nasa.gov>
>To: "Terek, Joanne M" <Joanne.M.Terek@msfc.nasa.gov>
>Subject: FW: Late Breaking possible SRB topic at FRR 2/14/02
>Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 12:41:54 -0600
>
>FYI
>
>Angela V. Daniels
>Safety & Mission Assurance
>NASA/QS21
>(256)544-7939
>
> ----Original Message--->> From: Tucker, Randall

>> Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2002 6:41 PM

>> To: Adams, Alex

>> Cc: Mullane, Dan; Daniels, Angela; Hooten, Neal; Fowler, Robert

Subject: Late Breaking possible SRB topic at FRR 2/14/02

>> >> >>

Subject: Throwaway Cable Connector Socket Failures

>> >>

>> >> There will be an SRB exception taken tomorrow at the FRR for the problem described below.

>> USA ground operations detected a continuity failure during cable installation test on cable X13W13P2 during buildup on approximately Jan >> 24. This was though to be an isolated incident at the time of failure. >> >> The cable had passed ARF testing before being sent to the VAB. The cable was returned to the ARF and the failure could not be repeated. As a part >> of the testing at the ARF PIN's were inserted into the 52 sockets and the >> cable was inverted. While in the inverted position 5 PIN's fell out. >> cable was fabricated in 1995 and connects the aft IEA to the upper strut >> and is for command use only. Cable X13W13P2 (P2 is connector back shell) >> is not an ordinance firing cable and is for single mission use only >> >> (throwaway cable). The connector itself is manufactured by Amphenol and sent to Lebarge (cable vendor) for completion of cable/connector >> manufacturing. Test connectors at the VAB are fabricated with potted >> >> back shells providing a better chance of circuit continuity. Test >> connectors at Ground Op's do not have the potted back shells, which >> enables the pins in the mating connector to float and show loss of >> continuity if the spring retainers within the connector are faulty. >> Flight hardware connectors are potted. The cable was sent to USA M&P for >> destructive analysis. M&P completed the destructive analysis today and it indicates a problem with the connector socket, which could be generic. >> The lot date code for this connector is 9530. >>

As a result of the first cable failure a visual inspection of the cable at the VAB was imitated. This visual inspection identified one other cable (10400-0030) today with a socket indicating problems with the Pin retention mechanism. The lot date code for this connector is 9529.

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At this time we have written suspect PR's on STS-109 cables on the PAD. To date we have pulled the cable serial #'s on the PAD and sent them to LaBarge. Labarge should let us know some time Thursday (2/14/02) the lot date codes for the cables and connectors.

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> This is late developing story and there will be more to come.